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COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND
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SOURCES OF ENERGY
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Agenda items 3-7

Development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy in the 1990s and beyond

Pakistan*: draft resolution

The Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 36/193 of 17 December 1981, 37/250 of 21 December 1982, 38/169 of 19 December 1983, 39/173 of 17 December 1984, 41/170 of 5 December 1986, 43/192 of 20 December 1988 and 45/208 of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming the validity of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and emphasizing the need for further development and implementation of new and renewable sources of energy following the objectives of the Programme,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77.

Stressing the importance of the continued development and application of renewable energy technologies, taking into account, inter alia, the importance of social, environmental and developmental concerns,

Taking into account the fact that widely distributed and accessible renewable sources of energy could constitute a more significant share of world energy supply,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Solar energy: a strategy in support of environment and development", 1/

Also having considered the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy 2/ and the pre-feasibility survey entitled "A proposed network of centres of excellence of international scope on new and renewable sources of energy",

Reaffirming that the fundamental objective of the Nairobi Programme of Action is to promote concerted action in the context of the energy transition for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy with a view to helping meet future overall energy requirements, especially those of developing countries, and that the energy transition from an international economy based primarily on hydrocarbons to one based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy should be orderly and peaceful and should take place in a manner which, consistent with the needs and options of individual countries, is socially equitable economically and technically viable and environmentally sustainable,

Observing that environmental problems, especially with respect to the depletion of the ozone layer, climate change, urban air pollution, acidification, land degradation, desertification, erosion and deforestation, require strong and immediate action, and that in this regard new and renewable sources of energy could provide a major instrument to effectively address these problems,

Considering that developing an energy system based increasingly on new and renewable sources of energy will require fundamental structural, economic and institutional changes in both the industrialized and developing countries, and that this can be achieved only with strong political will, active international cooperation, and public and private involvement,

Considering also that adopting a long-term approach is essential for the development of the infrastructure and the policy and institutional arrangements needed for utilizing new and renewable sources of energy,

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1/ A/AC.218/1992/5 and Add.1.

2/ A/AC.218/1992/9.

Considering further that implementing such an approach will also require short- and medium-term transitional policies,

I

Effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Solar energy: a strategy in support of environment and development", 1/ the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy 2/ and the pre-feasibility survey entitled "A proposed network of centres of excellence of international scope on new and renewable sources of energy";

2. Invites Member States to consider the development of new and renewable sources of energy in the context of their overall national development plans and priorities, and coordinated as an integral part of energy sector programmes;

3. Invites Member States to consider the following measures to this end:

(a) The adoption and implementation of integrated national action programmes on the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy within the framework of strategies and policies for the transition to energy systems compatible with sustainable development;

(b) The establishment of targets for the contribution of the different new and renewable sources of energy to their energy supply, commensurate with the needs and options of individual countries;

(c) The establishment and strengthening of, as appropriate, national government institutions, at a suitably high level, responsible for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy; where deemed necessary, cooperative arrangements at the subregional and regional levels should be envisaged;

(d) Promotion of the utilization of new and renewable sources of energy through education, training and information programmes; energy/environment planning and policy coordination; and research, development and demonstration, with a view to facilitating the implementation of national plans, including policies and programmes for achieving the targets established by countries themselves;

(e) The adopton of energy policies that provide reasonable and adequate incentives, measures and regulations for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy; environmental and social costs could be incorporated in national energy planning and project appraisals;

(f) Encouragement of the funding of research, development and demonstration in the area of new and renewable sources of energy, in

particular through public energy investments devoted to promoting research, development, demonstration and training related to new and renewable sources of energy, commensurate with the potential of countries to meet national energy needs and with their international responsibilities;

(g) The establishment and implementation of procedures for recording statistical data on new and renewable energy applications in their respective countries;

(h) The provision of information on their national programmes for promoting new and renewable energy sources in order to facilitate international cooperation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to implement the following recommendations:

(a) Promote rapid implementation of systems based on new and renewable sources of energy, especially in developed countries, in order to reduce possible environmentally harmful emissions in a manner consistent with their magnitude;

(b) Promote all efforts in the energy sector so that new and renewable sources of energy and technologies for their utilization, together with energy-efficiency improvements, are given adequate priority as instruments for sustainable development;

(c) Ensure that the various entities within the United Nations system continue to carry out action-oriented programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, in accordance with the areas for priority action set up therein; with a view to ensuring that a continuous effort is made by the system towards the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, new programmes and projects should be prepared upon completion of current ones, or suitable adjustment should be introduced to current activities in the light of the experience gained in their implementation; technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in programme formulation and implementation should be significantly expanded;

(d) Promote increased funding, inter alia, from new and additional financial resources, in support of the implementation of national action programmes on new and renewable energy sources, in particular in developing countries;

(e) Promote the rapid and effective transfer of technologies to harness new and renewable sources of energy to all countries and, in particular, to developing countries on favourable and concessional terms; in that regard, action should be taken to adapt currently available technologies to local conditions, to support the build-up of the endogenous expertise and infrastructure needed to enable the implementation of new and renewable energy

programmes, and to promote local production of technologies in order to enhance national self-reliance;

(f) Assist countries in the collection of data on new and renewable sources of energy in a standardized form, so that it can be useful at the international level;

(g) Prepare and disseminate studies on new technological developments, techniques and strategies for identifying, locating and evaluating new and renewable energy sources;

(h) Promote measures for assisting developing countries in the development of credit and marketing facilities designed to facilitate the development and utilization of promising technologies to harness new and renewable sources of energy;

(i) Promote the allocation of a significant and increasing share of aid funds devoted to the energy sector from multilateral and international agencies to viable new and renewable energy projects;

(j) Promote the mobilization of additional and adequate financial resources for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action through existing or new financial institutions and mechanisms of the United Nations system; in that regard, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme should be requested to consider revitalizing the Energy Account and converting it into an energy fund, as originally conceived;

(k) Coordinate activities carried out within and outside the United Nations system, including intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and financial institutions, with a view to effectively promoting the utilization of new and renewable energy sources through efficient utilization of resources and avoidance of unnecessary overlapping and duplication;

5. Recommends that institutional arrangements within the United Nations system be strengthened with a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action; that United Nations Secretariat arrangements be strengthened consistent with the magnitude of the supporting tasks to be carried out concerning the scientific, technical, monitoring and coordination aspects of the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy; that, when appropriate, Governments be requested to second technical staff; and that final institutional arrangements be implemented in the light of the outcome and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to undertake the necessary consultations with a view to enlisting enhanced financial support from donor countries and multilateral financial institutions for the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy;

7. Invites interested Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to provide the necessary financial support to implement the network of centres of excellence, as recommended by the Castel Gandolfo Colloquium of High-level Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 3/ such a network to be linked to regional new and renewable sources of energy centres and networks;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to provide appropriate assistance, through the United Nations system, for the measurement and evaluation of new and renewable energy resources in developing countries;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical, comparative and comprehensive study of experiences gained worldwide in implementing new and renewable energy strategies, as well as proposals for effective policies;

10. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to prepare, for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, a comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

II

Contribution of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development through the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference

Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, at its fourth session, for consideration under Agenda 21, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Solar energy: a strategy in support of environment and development", 1/ the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on New and Renewable Sources of Energy 2/ and the pre-feasibility survey entitled "A proposed network of centres of excellence of international scope on new and renewable sources of energy".

3/ A/AC.218/1990/2, sect. II.C.